(b) and (c) A Special Group has been set up by the Planning Commission to suggest measures to generate one crore employment opportunities during each year of the Tenth Five Year plan.

Compensation payable to workers

550. SHRI K.M. KHAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of compensation payable to the workers under the Workmen's Compensation Act in the case of death and permanent total disability;

(b) whether the minimum amount of compensation is likely to be raised in the case of death and permanent total disability;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) to (d) Based on the recommendations of the Standing Committee of Parliament on Labour and Welfare, the Workmen's Compensation Act has been amended with effect from 8.12.2000 wherein the minimum rate of compensation for permanent total disablement and death have been fixed at Rs. 90,000/- and Rs. 80,000/- respectively, as against the previous rates of Rs. 60,000/- and Rs. 50,000/- respectively. The maximum amount of compensation can go up to Rs. 5,48,496/- for permanent total disablement and upto Rs. 4,57,080/- for death.

Need for labour reforms

551. SHRI CM. IBRAHIM: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister, at the meeting of the Council of Trade and Industry held in New Delhi on September 7, 2001, stressed on the need for speedy labour reform*;

(b) if so, the objectives contemplated for such labour reforms and in what precise context and background these observations were made; and

(c) the steps taken in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) and (b) In the context of legislative actions required for the economic reforms, the Hon'ble Prime Minister at the meeting of the Council on Trade and Industry held on 7th September, 2001 assured initiation of labour

reforms which were in the interest of large-scale employment generation. He, however, dispelled the notion that these reforms would be at the cost of labour.

(c) Review / updation of labour laws is a continuous process in order to make them in tune with the prevailing situtation and emerging needs so as to bring them in tune with the market oriented economy giving the domestic industry a level playing field to face the global competition. The Second National Commission on Labour, set by the Government, would *inter-alia* take into account the emerging economic environment involving rapid technological changes, globalisation of economy, liberalization of trade and industry, emphasis on international competitiveness and also the need for brining the existing laws in tune with the future labour market needs and demands. The report of the Commission is expected by 15.02.2002.

Welfare Boards for workers

552. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTI A: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up Welfare Boards for building and other construction workers at the Centre and States level in order to provide specific welfare facilities to construction workers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken to implement the Building and other Construction Workers, Act, 1996 in all the States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) to (d) Under Section 18 of the Building and Other Construction Workers (Regulation of Emoloyment & Conditions of Service) Act, 1996 there is provision for constitution of Building and Other Construction Workers* Welfare Boards at the State Level to provide certain social security and welfare measures to the workers, like assistance in case of accident, payment of pension, premia for Group Insurance Scheme, medical care, housing assistance, education to the children of the beneficiary etc. The State Government have been advised to complete the process of implementation of the Act.

Contract Labour Policy

553. SHRI S. AGNIRAJ: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state: